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Notes on Bayonet Training

No. 2

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WAR DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON, *August 16, 1917.*

he following pamphlet, Notes on Bayonet Training, No. 2, ublished for the information of all concerned.

(300.6, A. G. O.)

Y ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

H. L. SCOTT,
Major General, Chief of Staff.

FFICIAL:

H. P. McCAIN,
The Adjutant General.

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BAYONET TRAINING.

INTRODUCTION.

PHYSICAL FITNESS.

It has been proved that one of the most important factors in this war is physical fitness and development of the fighting spirit. Courage is only developed in a man by his being trained to have the greatest confidence in his fighting weapon. It is just as absurd to send a man forward to fight with a bayonet without having complete confidence in his weapon, as it would be to put an untrained man in the ring against a professional prize fighter. The lack of confidence on the part of the untrained man would be about the same in both cases.

FINAL ASSAULT PRACTICE.

Officers and noncommissioned officers must themselves become good fighters if they are to teach others how to fight, and their success as leaders depends to a very large extent upon their ability as instructors. Looking at the question broadly it may be stated that the aim of training is the improvement of the fighting quality of a mass, and those who are least efficient should receive the most attention so as to bring them up to the plane of their comrades, as each man in the mass depends upon his confidence in himself and in his comrades as fighters.

Bayonet fighting must be taught as boxing, fencing, and wrestling are taught—by actual contact and not merely theoretically. To tell a man how to box and give him instructions by the hour will never make him a boxer. He must combine theory with practice. He must put on the gloves and measure his skill against that of others, and the more he does this, provided he is instructed on the right lines, the greater degree of proficiency to which he will attain. From a fighting point of view, boxing is most invaluable as an aid to training.

STIMULUS OF PHYSICAL CONTACT.

The aim is to develop the soldier of every rank into an ideal fighting man, and it may be put bluntly that progress in training is frequently hindered by the failure of the recruit to apply the natural fighting spirit. It is here where "in-fighting disarming practice," for instance, is such a valuable adjunct to training. The soldier's fighting spirit must be drawn out by actual physical contact.

Regimental officers should be more proficient in the use of the fighting weapons than their men, because the fact of the men knowing that their officers are capable fighters creates a feeling of confidence.

THE SPIRIT OF THE BAYONET.

Uniformity in training is also an important point, as men going into action are buoyed up by the fact that their comrades on their right and left are capable of doing their share at the critical moment.

All ranks must understand that the enemy method of bayonet fighting is not the same as our method. Therefore the greatest control of the rifle and bayonet is necessary in order to meet any form of attack.

The spirit of the bayonet must be inculcated into all ranks so that they go forward with that aggressive determination and confidence of superiority born of continual practice, without which a bayonet assault will not be effective.

NOTES.

(1) All "in-fighting" practices can be done with parrying poles padded at the ends representing rifle and bayonet, or with equipment, viz, spring muskets, gloves, masks, and body pads.

(2) Any low point may be effectively parried with the butt, and after parrying the butt can be used to disable opponent.

(3) The first object after parrying point with hand or arm is to disable opponent. Secondly, to disarm and kill.

(4) Troops armed with bayonet only can be effectively taught to repel attack against rifle and bayonet.

(5) Any simple method of Ju-jitsu, wrestling, and boxing should be taught and encouraged.

Series "A."—1-8.

LONG POINT, SHORT POINT, AND JAB.

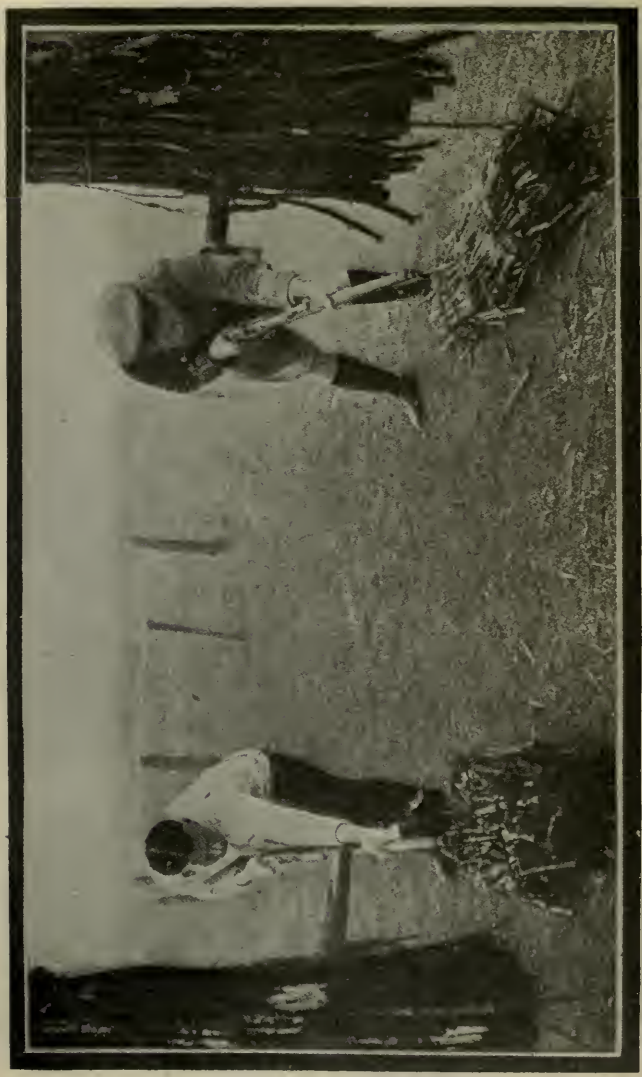
Reference, Paragraphs 19 to 30, Notes on Bayonet Training, March, 1917.

Each dummy must be regarded as an actual armed opponent, and each line of dummies as an enemy line—attacking, defending, or retiring—and be disposed of accordingly.

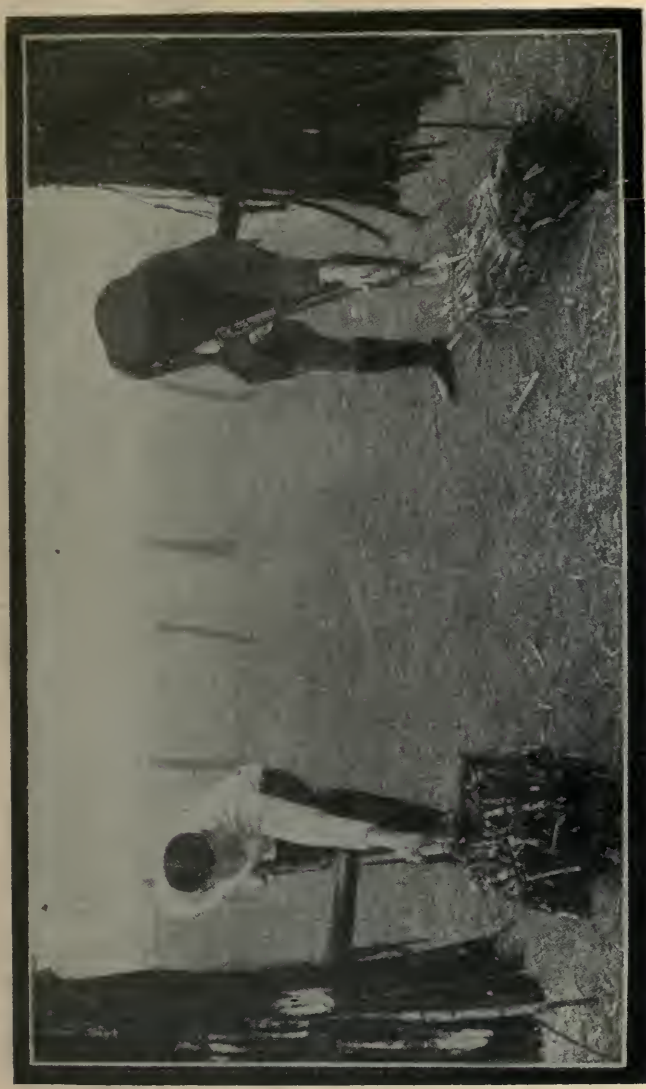
1. On guard.
2. Assault practice—On guard.
3. Long point, at dummy on ground.
4. Foot on dummy, left hand up, vigorous withdrawal.
5. Short point—Position.
6. Short point at dummy, advancing rear foot.
7. Right hand up, withdrawal ready for jab.
8. Jab—Advancing rear foot. Withdraw, passing through dummies at on guard position.

SERIES "A."—1. ON GUARD.

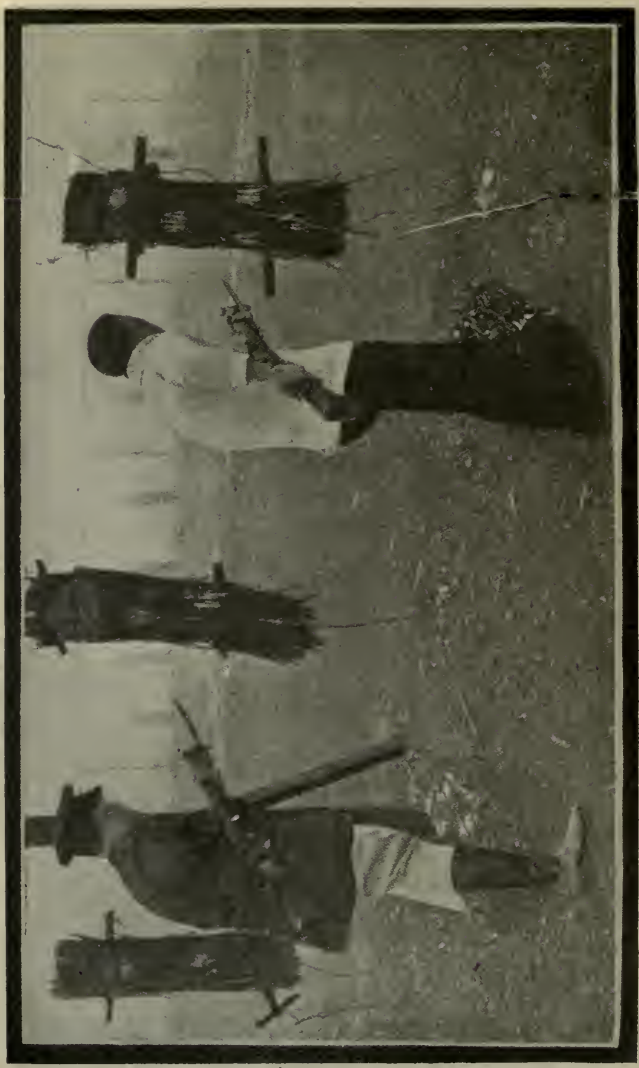
SERIES "A."—2. ASSAULT PRACTICE—ON GUARD.



SERIES "A."—3. LONG POINT. AT DUMMY ON GROUND.



SERIES "A."—4. FOOT ON DUMMY, LEFT HAND UP, VIGOROUS WITHDRAWAL.



SERIES "A."—5. SHORT POINT, POSITION.

SERIES "A."—6. SHORT POINT AT DUMMY, ADVANCING REAR FOOT.

SERIES "A."—7. RIGHT HAND UP, WITHDRAWAL READY FOR JAB.

JAB, ADVANCING REAR FOOT, WITHDRAW, PASSING THROUGH DUMMIES AT ON GUARD POSITION.
SERIES "A."—8.

Series "B."—9-14.

ASSAULT PRACTICE.

Reference, Paragraphs 41 to 55, Notes on Bayonet Training, March, 1917.

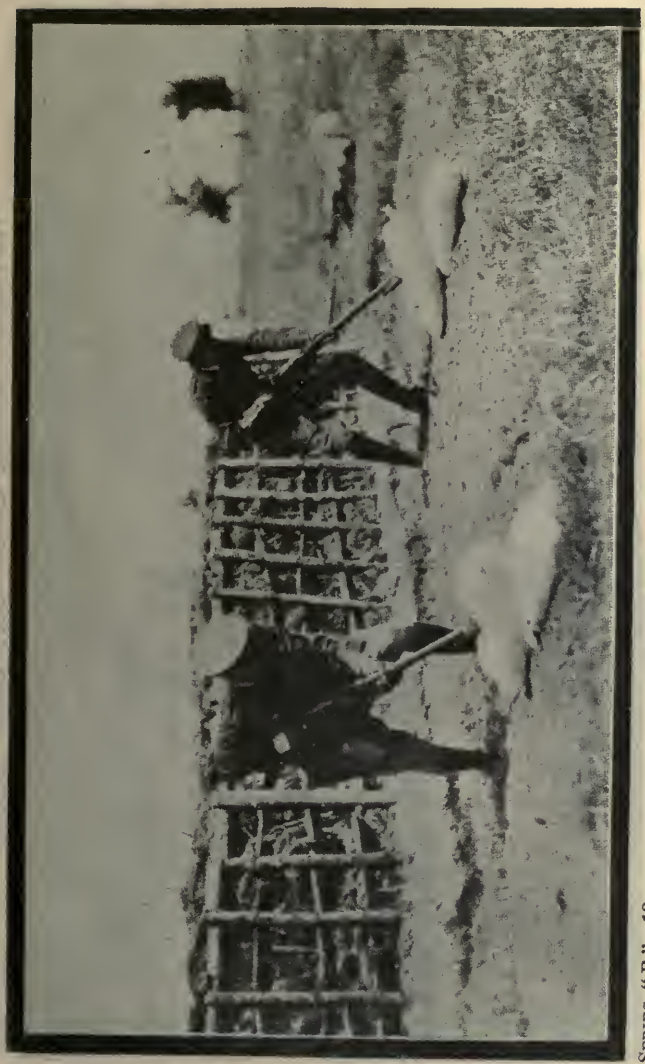
9. Charging at high port. The threatening, yet defensive, "On Guard" position will be assumed at least 10 yards from the enemy.
10. Jumping from parapet, with point on dummy.
11. Control and direction of point.
12. Point leading on landing.
13. Foot on dummy, left hand up, vigorous withdrawal.
14. On guard and forward.

CHARGING AT HIGH PORT.

SERIES "B."—9.

SERIES "B."—10. JUMPING FROM PARAPET, WITH POINT ON DUMMY.

SERIES "B."—11. CONTROL AND DIRECTION OF POINT.



SERIES "B."—12. POINT LEADING ON LANDING.

SERIES "B."—13. FOOT ON DUMMY, LEFT HAND UP, VIGOROUS WITHDRAWAL.

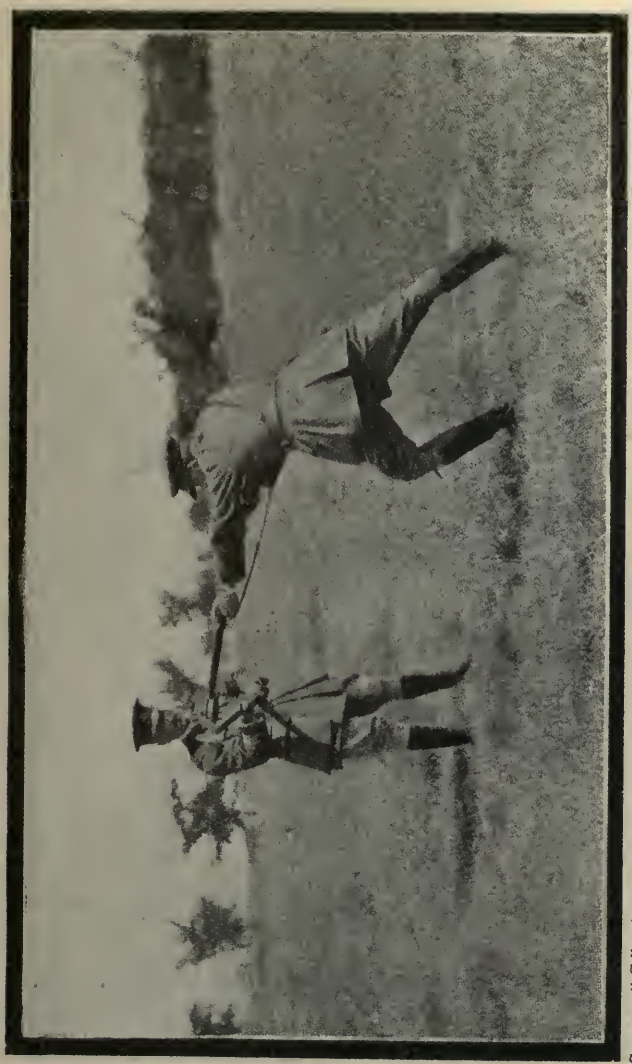
SERIES "B."—14. ON GUARD AND FORWARD.

Series "C."—15-20.

DIRECTION PRACTICE AT THRUSTING RING.

15. On guard.
16. Long point.
17. Short point—position.
18. Short point.
19. Jab position.
20. Jab.

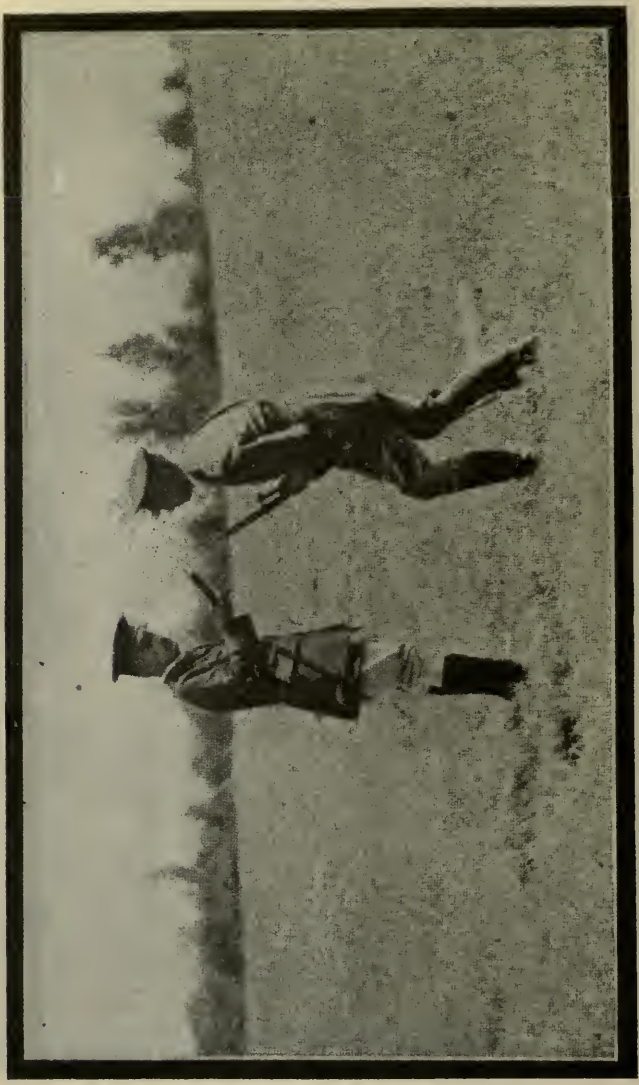
SERIES "C." 15. ON GUARD.



SERIES "C."—16. LONG POINT.

SERIES "C."—17. SHORT POINT—POSITION.

SERIES "C."—18. SHORT POINT.



JAB POSITION.

SERIES "C."—19.

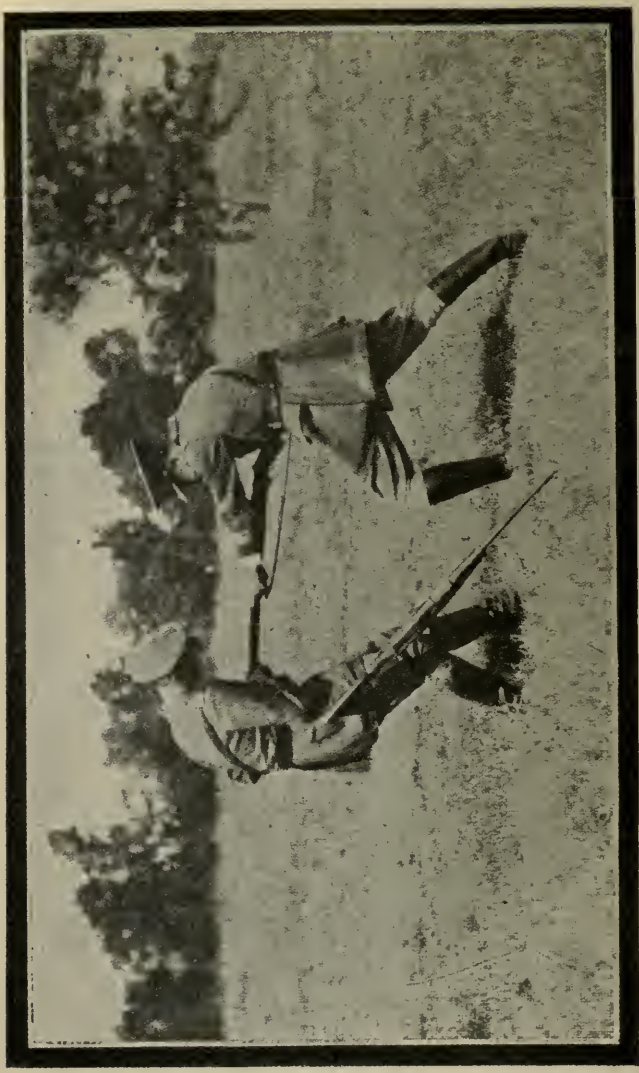
JAB.

SERIES "C."—20.

Series "D."—21-24.

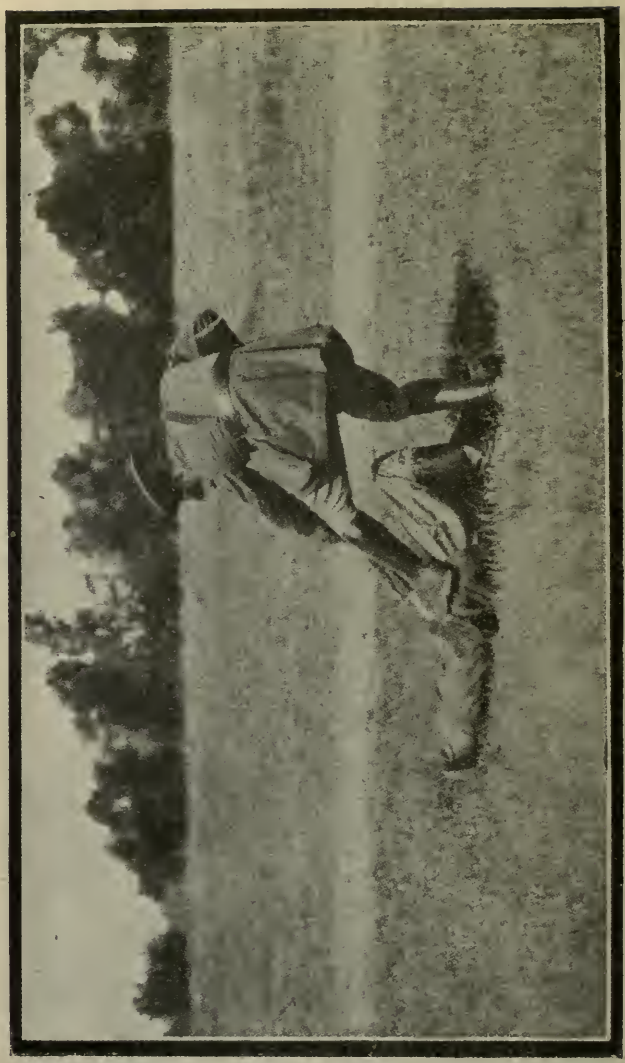
DEMONSTRATION OF SUCCESSFUL ATTACK, SHOWING METHOD OF WITHDRAWING THE RIFLE FROM VICTIM.

21. Successful point: victim seizing rifle.
22. Victim forced to ground.
23. Strong withdrawal.
24. Ready for further action with short point.



SERIES "D."—21. SUCCESSFUL POINT: VICTIM SEIZING RIFLE.

SERIES "D."—22. VICTIM FORCED TO GROUND.



SERIES "D."—23. STRONG WITHDRAWAL.

SERIES "D."—24. READY FOR FURTHER ACTION WITH SHORT POINT.

Series "E."—25-30.

USE OF BUTT.

Reference, Paragraphs 31 to 36, Notes on Bayonet Training, March, 1917.

25. Right parry.
26. Attack continued with butt to flank.
27. Points forced up after parry.
28. Butt to fork.
29. Left low parry.
30. Butt to head.

SERIES "E."—25. RIGHT PARRY.

SERIES "E."—26. ATTACK CONTINUED WITH BUTT TO FLANK.

SERIES "E."—27. POINTS FORCED UP AFTER PARRY.

SERIES "E."—28. BUTT TO FORK.

SERIES "E."—29. LEFT LOW PARRY.

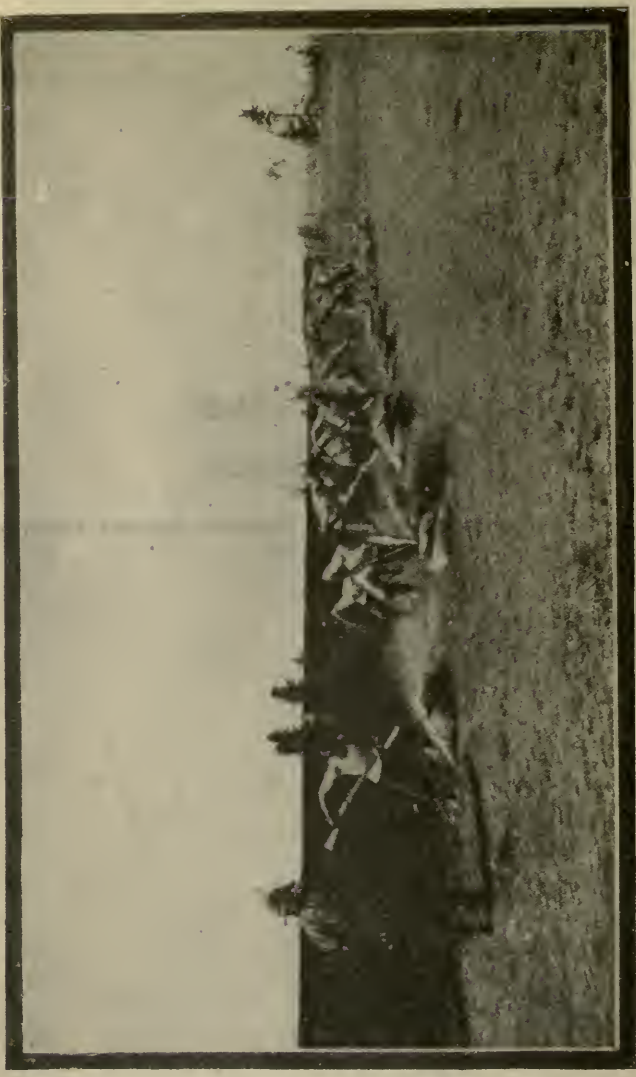
SERIES "E."—30. BUTT TO HEAD.

Series "F."—31-33.

FINAL ASSAULT.

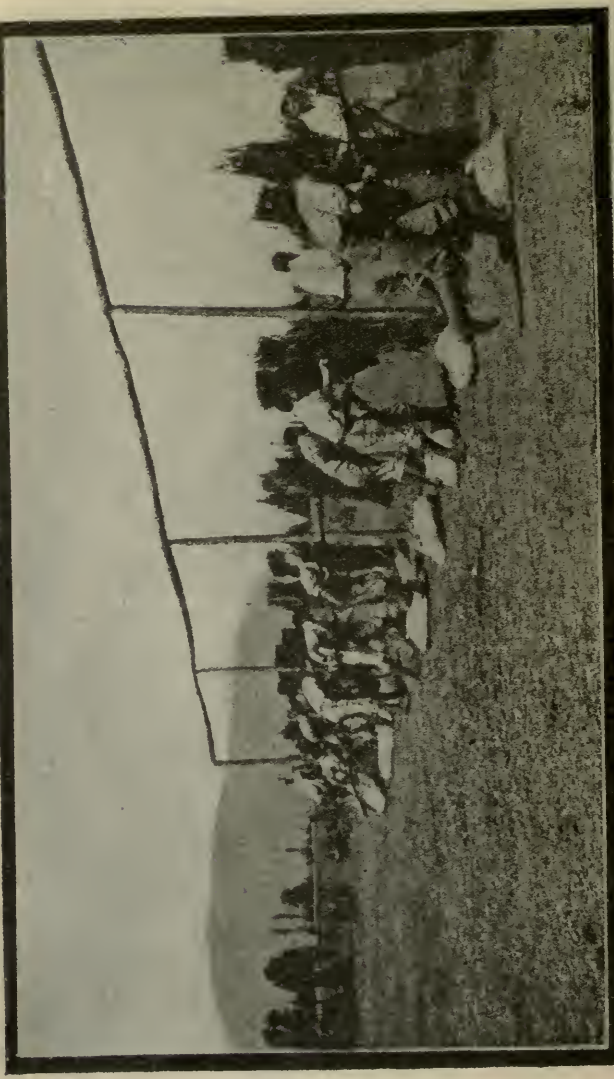
Reference, Paragraphs 41 to 55, Notes on Bayonet Training, March, 1917.

31. Final assault.
32. Final assault.
33. Final assault.



SERIES "F."—31. FINAL ASSAULT (1).

SERIES "F."—32. FINAL ASSAULT (2).



FINAL ASSAULT (3).

SERIES "F."—33.

Series "G."—34-41.

"IN-FIGHTING."

Parry point outward with left hand. Step in, seizing opponent's left wrist firmly with the right hand. Grip rifle with left hand (back of hand down). Swing rifle upward and to the right, at the same time stepping in, bringing left knee violently to fork. Disarm, using butt or point.

34. Parry point outward with left hand.
35. Step in, seizing opponent's left wrist firmly with right hand.
36. Grip the rifle with left hand, back of the hand down.
37. Swing the rifle upward and to the right, at the same time stepping in, retaining grasp on opponent's left wrist.
38. Left knee, violently to fork.
39. Force opponent to ground, and disarm.
40. Use butt or point.
41. Using point to kill.

SERIES "G."—34. PARRY POINT OUTWARD WITH LEFT HAND.

STEP IN, SEIZING OPPONENT'S LEFT WRIST FIRMLY WITH RIGHT HAND.

SERIES "G."—35.

SERIES "G."—36. GRIP THE RIFLE WITH LEFT HAND, BACK OF THE HAND DOWN.

SWING THE RIFLE UPWARD AND TO THE RIGHT, AT THE SAME TIME STEPPING IN, RETAINING GRASP ON OPPONENT'S LEFT WRIST.

SERIES "G."—37.

SERIES "Q."—38. LEFT KNEE, VIOLENTLY TO FORK.

SERIES "G."—39. **FORCE OPPONENT TO GROUND, AND DISARM.**

SERIES "G."—40. USE BUTT OR POINT.

SERIES "G."—41. USING POINT TO KILL.

Series "H."—42-47.

"IN-FIGHTING."

Parry point outward with right hand, kicking at fork or shin with rear foot and gripping rifle with right hand (back of hand down), swing rifle upward and to the left. Force point to ground, at the same time stepping in, vigorously charging or tripping opponent. Disarm and kill.

42. Parry point outward with right hand.
43. Kicking at fork or shin with rear foot, and gripping rifle with right hand, back of hand down.
44. Swing rifle upward and to the left.
45. Force point to ground, stepping in.
46. Vigorously charging or tripping.
47. Disarm and kill.

SERIES "H."—42. PARRY POINT OUTWARD WITH RIGHT HAND.

KICKING AT FORK OR SHIN WITH REAR FOOT, AND GRIPPING RIFLE WITH RIGHT HAND, BACK OF HAND DOWN.

SERIES "H."—43.

9613°—17——5

SWING RIFLE UPWARD AND TO THE LEFT.
SERIES "II."—44.

FORCE POINT TO GROUND, STEPPING IN.
SERIES "II."—45.

VIGOROUSLY CHARGING OR TRIPPING.

SERIES "H."—46

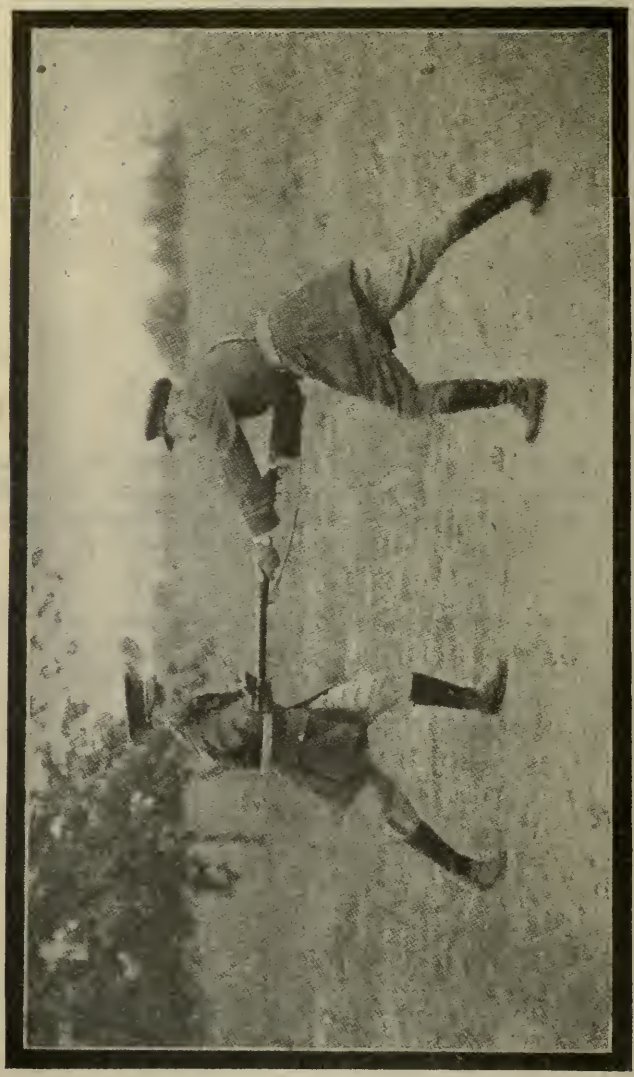
SERIES "H."—47. DISARM AND KILL.

Series "J."—48-53.

"IN-FIGHTING."

Parry point outward and grasp rifle with right hand. Step in, striking opponent's left hand from rifle with left hand, and swing left elbow violently to jaw, disarming opponent, using butt to head and killing with point.

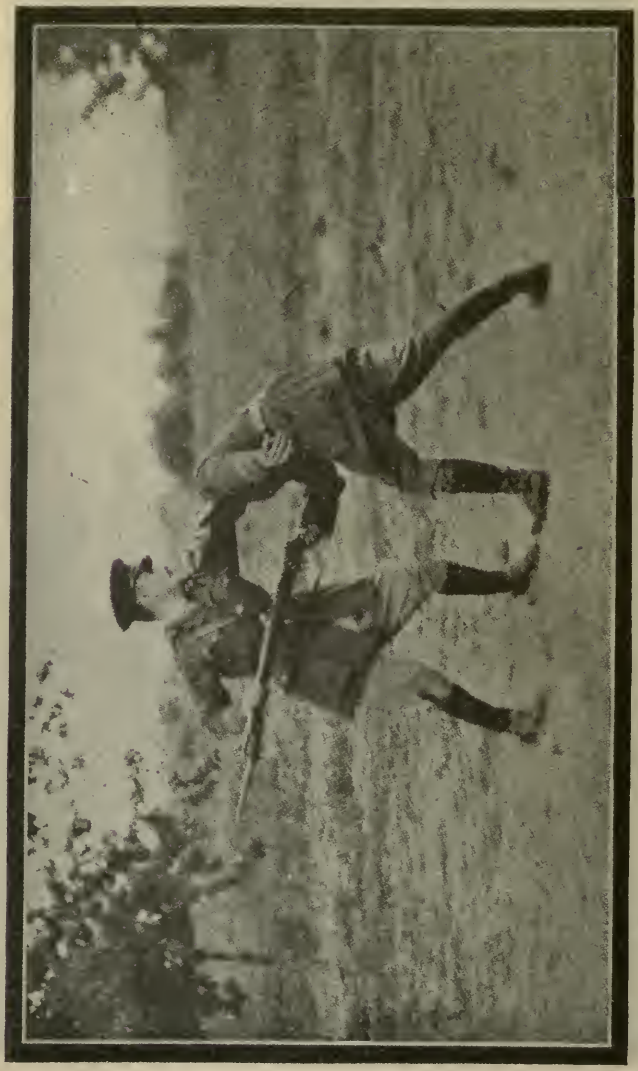
48. Parry with hand.
49. Advance, striking opponent's left hand from rifle.
50. Left elbow to jaw.
51. Attack successful, opponent disarmed.
52. Butt to head.
53. Kill with point.



PARRY WITH HAND.

SERIES "J."—48.

SERIES "J."—49. ADVANCE, STRIKING OPPONENT'S LEFT HAND FROM RIFLE.



SERIES "J."—50. LEFT ELBOW TO JAW.

SERIES "J."—51. ATTACK SUCCESSFUL, OPPONENT DISARMED.

BUTT TO HEAD.

SERIES "J."—52.

SERIES "J."—53. KILL WITH POINT.

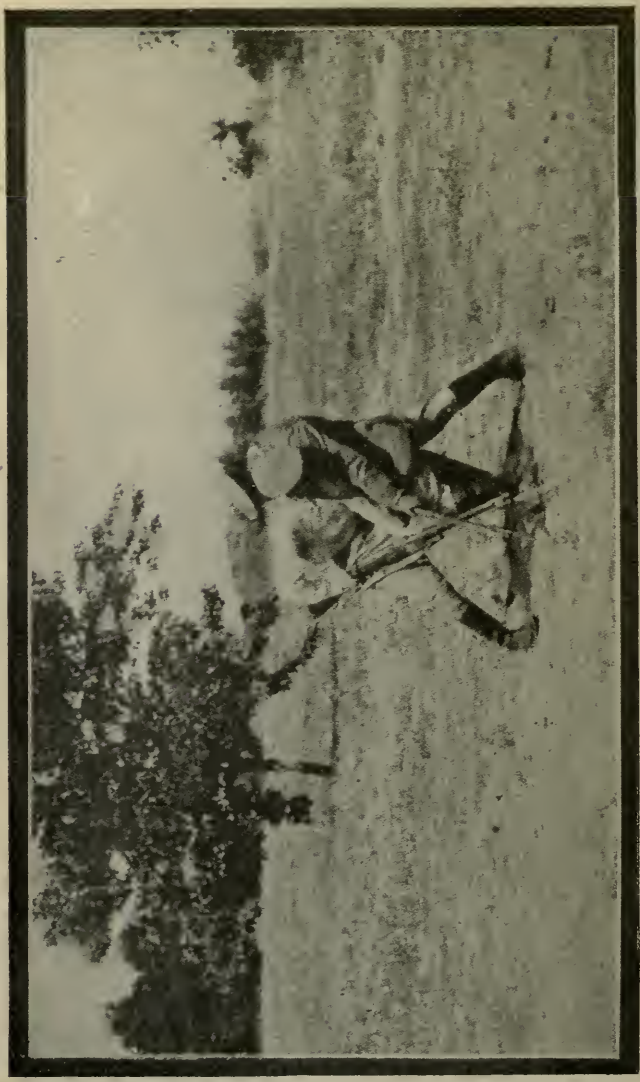
Series "K."—54-57.

METHOD OF USING RIFLE AT CLOSE QUARTERS.

54. Attack.
55. Parried and points forced to ground.
56. Contact results.
57. Disengagement to jabbing position.

SERIES "K."—54. ATTACK.

SERIES "K."—55. PARRIED AND POINTS FORCED TO GROUND.



SERIES "K."—56. CONTACT RESULTS.

SERIES "K."—57. DISENGAGEMENT TO JABBING POSITION.

Series "L."—58-59.

METHOD OF USING KNIFE (CARRIED IN PUTTEE) IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE RIFLE AND BAYONET AT CLOSE QUARTERS.

58. Reaching for knife in contact after parried attack.
59. Stab at groin.

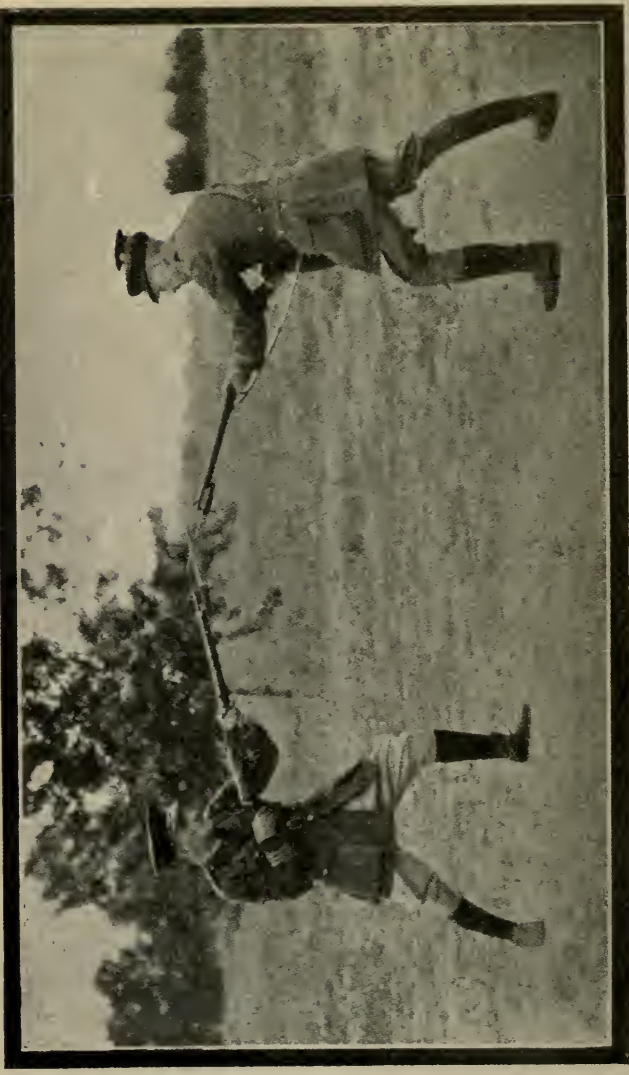
SERIES "L."—58. REACHING FOR KNIFE IN CONTACT AFTER PARRIED ATTACK.

SERIES "L."—59. STAB AT GROIN.

Series "M."—60-61.

METHODS OF DISENGAGING AND FEINTING.

60. Advance to attack.
61. Disengagement low on parry and dashing in with point.



SERIES "M."—60. ADVANCE TO ATTACK.

DISENGAGEMENT LOW ON PARRY AND DASHING IN WITH POINT.

SERIES "M."—61.

Series "N."—62.

A METHOD OF MEETING ATTACKS.

62. Duck and low point.

SERIES "N."—62. DUCK AND LOW POINT.

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Infantry Company.

232 – 4 platoons each 58 men

20 – Hqrs to detach (inc Capt and Kr.)

4 – 2 Hqrs 2 R. Kts

256 – total

5 platoon sergeants

4 " Sgt

1 buglers

1 bugle major [C] = comp.

1 Asst company

1 Trumpeter

1 grenadier

1 " corp.

1 Asst Hqrs 1 Sgt 1 Cpl runner

Hqrs detachment.

1 1st Sgt 1 Cpl

1 Mess Sgt 1 " Cpl

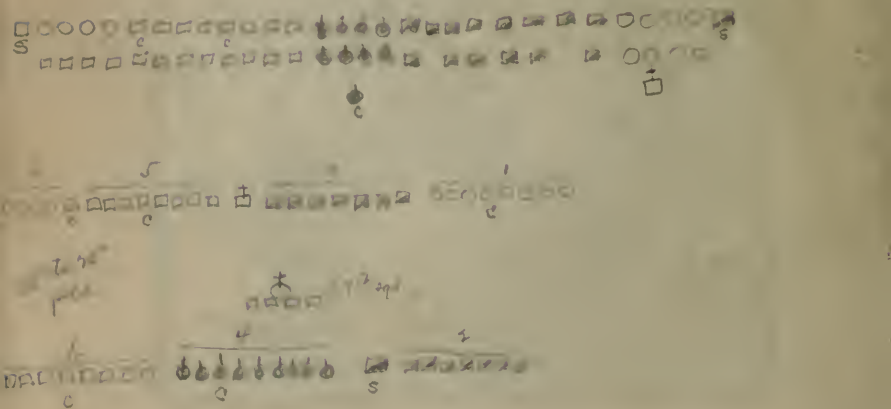
1 Supl. Sgt

1 Bugle (Chief)

1 Cook

4 Asst cooks

1 Clerk 1st / runner

2 Buglers

1 Platoon